

one-third of its present bulk, and by relieving the soldier from a system of drill which takes and enormous time to learn, and almost as long to re-acquire every year, we should have time to develop his intelligence, and to make him something like a real master of the weapon which we put into his hands. At present nearly the whole we can exact from the soldier is devoted to keeping at its highest polish the art of marching past in slow time, and other showy but useless processes. The use of his weapon, to which all drill should be subservient, has only recently been taught to him at all, and is even now a branch of instruction frequently slurred over and made somewhat unpopular to the majority of officers and men. But if we reduce the time needful for learning drill, musketry instruction can, we apprehend, be given in a less wearying and more attractive form. If this is done, and if, above all, the soldier is permitted and encouraged to practise at the target a great deal more than he does at present, we shall then, and not till then, really begin at last to utilize the excellent interest we have ready to our hands.

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE.

The terrible earthquake which has just devastated Southern Peru and a large part of the State of Ecuador must be classed among the most terrible convulsions of the kind ever known, and the destruction of life and property attending it is not exceeded by that of any other catastrophe on the American continent—at least since the discovery of America—with the exception of the ruin which was wrought in February, 1797, when the whole country between Santa Fe and Panama, was destroyed by an earthquake, and 40,000 people buried in an instant. Of modern earthquakes, the present one is surpassed in its destructive effect by only two besides that just mentioned—the earthquake of Lisbon, in 1756, when 60,000 are believed to have perished in the space of six minutes, and that of Calabria, in the end of the last century, when 40,000 were destroyed. The earthquake in the kingdom of Naples in 1857 was attended with the loss, it is estimated, of fully 30,900 lives. In the number of towns which have ceased to exist, both in Peru and Ecuador, we are reminded of the earthquake in the island of Java in 1772, when 40 villages, with all their inhabitants, were overwhelmed in one common ruin; and the startling fact that in Ecuador, where the town of Golach stood previous to the earthquake, there is now a lake, brings to recollection the destruction by an earthquake the City of Port Royal Jamaica, which instantaneously sunk with the greater part of the buildings beneath the waves.

Earthquakes of tremendous violence, working fearful destruction, have been of frequent occurrence in South and Central America. In October, 1746, Lima and Calloa were demolished by one, and 18,000 persons were buried in the ruins: in April 1855, the City of Quito was destroyed; in July, 1773, Guatemala, with 8,000 of its inhabitants, was swallowed up; in February, 1796, occurred the lowest earthquake above alluded to; in March, 1812, the City of Caraccas, the capital of Venezuela, was reduced, with all its splendid churches, to a heap of ruins, beneath which 12,000 of the inhabitants were crushed to death; on 2nd of April, 1831, Valparaiso was terribly shaken, and more than 300 houses destroyed; in April, 1854,

St. Salvador was destroyed; in June, 1868, the Valley of Mexico was convulsed, and property to the value of several millions of dollars destroyed; in March, 1861, the greater part of the City of Mendoza, in the Argentine Republic was overthrown, and 7,000 lives lost, and in December, 1862, 120 buildings and 14 churches were destroyed in Guatemala. Toward the end of last year several severe shocks were experienced in Central America, but they were unattended with any damage of a serious character.

A THOROUGH DANDY.—Lord E. F., captain in the 10th Hussars, sauntered one day into the Royal Arcade Dublin. After looking about, asked to see some gloves. Several parcels were shown him and he selected a pair. While trying them on he enquired the price of them from the lady behind the counter. 'Two and nine pence!' said the woman. 'Two and nine pence!' he exclaimed, lifting up his eyebrows, 'how much is two and nine pence? 'It is three shillings all but three pence,' replied the lady smiling. 'Aw,' he said, 'three shillings. I see!' He took out his purse and placed three shillings on the counter. The shop woman opened the drawer till, took out three penny pieces, folded them in a bit of paper and handed them to the officer. 'Your change sir.' 'My change! oh! ah! yes! very good! Pray, have you a porter?' 'There is one in the Arcade. Shall I call him sir?' 'Oh, thank you; too much trouble, I'm sure, aw!' 'No trouble, at all sir.' The old lady went to the door and beckoned to some one in the distance. A man in a faded blue and yellow livery entered the shop. 'Here's the porter, sir,' said the old lady. 'Oh! ah! thanks, I'm sure,' rejoined the officer. 'My man,' as he turned to the Arcadian official, 'do you know the Portobello barracks?' 'Portobello, sir? Sure an its meself that does. Haven't I a cousin in No. 5 troop of the Tenth Hussars?' the officer handed a card to him, pointed to the change on the counter, and said. 'Take that luggage to my servant at this address, and here's a half crown for your trouble.'

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Times*, commenting upon General Grant's reputed want of eloquence, reproduces the following pithy correspondence:—

To General Grant:

I think Lee will surrender, if things are pushed.

Yours,

PHIL. SHERIDAN.

To Major-General Sheridan:

Push things.

Yours,

U. S. GRANT.

A suit has been commenced in the United States Supreme Court against Mr. Laird, the builder of the rebel privateer *Alabama*, by the owners of one of the vessels which she destroyed. It is claimed that she was fitted out in violation of law, and that her owners and builders are liable for damages sustained at her hands. It is stated that Mr. Laird had funds in this country which were accessible, and that they have been attached and are held liable for whatever he may be held to pay. The case is novel and one of decided interest.

News received through a Mexican official, of New-Laredo, favors the belief that a movement is on foot to organize a force to operate in Mexico. There are a number of Mexican refugees at the ranche of Gen. Quiroga, and it is said there are about sixty men at the same place and at other points. It is believed they have sent a couple of agents to this vicinity to consult with the agent of Gen. Santa Anna. Gen. Quiroga protests that he is not meddling with affairs in Mexico; that he may return there in time but not now. The Benevides family deny any complicity in any fillibuster scheme.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

A man in Hamilton is living with his fifth wife and five mothers in law. He will receive his reward hereafter.

It is stated that the Ontario Legislature will meet on the 3rd of November. The Quebec Parliament will meet, it is said, in or about the last week in October.

The Cobourg *World* tells of a family reunion which lately took place in its neighbourhood, at which there were present three great grandmothers, eleven grandmothers, and eighty grandchildren. A large party and evidently a little inclined to antediluvianism.

There is growing dissatisfaction among Repealers at Mr. Howe's course. He is very quiet and does not contradict the reports of his accepting the situation. Mr. Howe would be very foolish to contradict every rumour set afloat by anonymous writers. Were he to do so he would be dragged into controversies and explanations which no public man should be subjected to, save at the instance of some person equally responsible with himself.

We learn from the Nova Scotian papers that the Legislature of that Province have passed the bill declaring that the militia cannot be enrolled to serve outside of the Province. This bill passed the Lower House unanimously, and the Upper House, by a majority of 10 to 8, and is the first act of defiance cast at the Dominion Government. The vote has, we learn, reanimated the "antis;" and the "anti" press has become still more violent.

Speaking of the new Militia Law, the *Hamilton Spectator* says:—

"Those apprehensions which were formed last Spring with regard to the discouraging influences of the new measure on the progress of the volunteer principle do not, happily, appear to have been realized. So far from volunteering being checked by the establishment of the new order of things, it is a matter of fact that the force has reached a higher status than it has ever previously occupied, and that the battalions are better filled to-day than when Sir George E. Cartier introduced his Bill. Not only, too, have many additional companies been formed, and the general popularity of the service thus satisfactorily established, but the recent gatherings in camp have passed off so pleasantly as to gratify, with scarcely an exception, all who took part in them, and who returned from their canvas shelter with, if possible, increased devotion to the duties they had voluntarily undertaken. Such being the case, there is little prospect of the much abused draft remaining otherwise than a dead letter. Where the country every-where has shown itself more than ready to come forward, any provision for correcting a non-existing reluctance need have scanty terrors."